

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 14 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 12 and 13 are hereby amended in response to the claim defects noted in the Final Action. All pending claims stand rejected either under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by *Batson* or under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over *Batson* in view of *Virblas*. In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments made previously, Applicant hereby traverses the rejections.

Claim Objections

Despite the oddity resulting from use of the indefinite article with every occurrence of “post” and “mailbox,” the amendment is made and the objection is submitted to be overcome. Similarly, “generally” is now paired with “continuous” as well as “cylindrical.”

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Applicant will not repeat its earlier remarks with respect to the shortcomings of *Batson* and *Virblas*. Those cogent arguments were dismissed because Examiner contends that the word “directly” does not limit the claims as Applicant intends. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the independent claims to state “in immediate physical contact with” instead of directly. This is taken *directly* from the definition of “directly” found at <http://www.webster.com/cgi-bin/dictionary?sourceid=Mozilla-search&va=directly>, as well as in many other dictionaries. “Immediate physical contact” is chosen over “without

intervening structure,” an alternate, but equally applicable definition, so as to avoid a “negative limitation.” *See, e.g.* <http://dictionary.reference.com/search?q=directly> ;

In view of the amendments, it is submitted to be indisputable that Applicant’s claimed invention is patentably distinct from *Batson* alone or in view of *Virblas*.

Because the amendments made herein are either formal or insubstantial amendments to the wording of claims intended to clarify their meaning Applicant submits that they are appropriate for entry after final rejection. Further because this is the second Request for Continued Examination and second Examiner in this application, resulting in no fewer than six searches of the claimed subject matter with no more than 3-to-4-word amendments in response to rejections (as opposed to wholesale re-drafting), the Application requires no further searching and is in condition for allowance.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this application in condition for allowance, or in better condition for appeal.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests, for the reasons set forth herein and for other reasons clearly apparent, allowance of all pending claims so that the application may be passed to issue.

If the Examiner has any questions or desires clarification of any sort, or deems that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due for the filing of this amendment and response. If this is incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2180.

Respectfully submitted,

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